

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FRB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 /115 W

----- 063277

R 080800Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2505

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONGEN HONG HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 5874

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1910

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC ENRG VN SN

SUBJECT: US PETROLEUM COMPANY EXPLORATION CONCESSIONS IN VIETNAM

FOR STATE/TREASURY-FAC/COMMERCE

1. REPRESENTATIVE OF UNION TEXAS PETROLEUM COMPANY, AN AMERICAN FIRM PREVIOUSLY OWNING AND OPERATING A PETROLEUM CONCESSION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION RE THE FOLLOWING: (A) WHAT IS LEGAL POSITION OF USG REGARDING RIGHTS AND PROPERTIES OF US COMPANIES WHICH HAVE BEEN DISLOCATED BY PRG VICTORY? RIGHTS AND PROPERTY IN THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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CASE REFER TO BOTH PHYSICAL PROPERTY WHICH WAS LEFT BEHIND IN VIETNAM BY UNION TEXAS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO PROPRIETARY RIGHTS IN CONCESSIONS GRANTED BY GVSN. (B) IF PROG RATIFIES THE CONCESSIONS PREVIOUSLY GRANTED TO FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES,

DOES OPERATING THOSE CONCESSIONS BY AMERICAN COMPANIES FALL UNDER TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT? (C) DOES THE USG HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF UNION TEXAS APPROACHING PRG OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO GAIN CLARIFICATION OF STATUS OF PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS PREVIOUSLY GRANTED BY GSVN? (D) UNDER THE TERMS OF UNION TEXAS CONTRACT WITH GSVN FOR CONCESSION, PAYMENT IS DUE TO GSVN FROM UNION TEXAS ON 17 JUNE. WHAT ARE THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES IF UNION TEXAS MAKES THAT PAYMENT TO PRG (IN AN EFFORT TO PURSUADE PRG TO RACTIFY THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT) ? (E) IF LEGAL SANCTIONS AND/OR REQUIREMENTS EXIST WHICH WILL BE APPLIED TO ABOVE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO UNION TEXAS, WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW DOES UNION TEXAS GO ABOUT COMPLYING WITH LAW?

2. MATTER IS SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT MANY CONCESSIONS IN VIETNAM WATERS WERE JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED, OFTEN BY COMPANIES FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. IN CASE OF UNION TEXAS, CONCESSION PARTNER IS AUSTRALIAN COMPANY WHICH (IN VIEW AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF PRG) INTENDS PURSUE ISSUE OF CONTRACT RATIFICATION WITH PRG FORTHWITH. IF AUSTRALIAN PARTNER DOES PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRG ON MATTER OF RWCIFICATION, THUS INVOLVING UNION TEXAS AS PARTNER, ARE THERE ANY LEGAL BARRIERS TO UNION TEXAS PARTICIPATION IN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS ?

3. SEVERAL AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES ARE IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES WITH REGARD TO VIETNAM CONCESSIONS. SHELL (PECTIN), MOBIL, CITIES SERVICE, MARATHON, SUN, SUNNIGDALE, AND BOW VALLEY REPRESENTATIVES WERE PLANNING MEETING AT SINGAPORE THIS WEEK TO POOL INFORMATION AND MAP STRATEGY WITH REGARD TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CONCESSIONS IN VIETNAM. RESULTS THIS MEETING NOT YET KNOWN.

4. UNION TEXAS AND OTHER OIL COMPANIES FEEL URGENT NEED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRG ON REACTIVATING THE CONCESSIONS FEARING THAT THEY MAY LOOSE OUT IF THEY DON'T ACT QUICKLY.
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5. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) PLEASE IDENTIFY USG ACTION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON FOR REFERRAL INQUIRIES SUCH AS ABOVE. (B) PLEASE GIVE FULLEST GUIDANCE POSSIBLE SO EMBASSY CAN REACT KNOWLEDGABLY TO INQUIRIES FROM US OIL COMPANIES WHICH BASE THEIR EXPLORATION OPERATIONS IN SINGPAORE.
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